

From: Nick Belli
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 3:23pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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To: microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To: Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Under the Tunney Act, I wish to comment on the proposed Microsoft settlement.

I am opposed to the settlement proposed by Microsoft. I feel the settlement would be very detrimental to education and fail to address the anti-competitive actions of Microsoft.

As a elementary school district technology coordinator, I have been involved in implementing computing solutions for instructional and operational uses. The monopolistic nature and anti-competitive actions of Microsoft have forced us to make certain technology decisions that we would rather not have made. In my opinion, Microsoft's domination of the computer market has harmed educational users and consumers.

My district has several schools with over eighty percent of the students receiving free or reduced lunches. We certainly fall in the target group of schools the proposed settlement proposes to assist. We do not need more used computers. Too many businesses think computers that no longer have any value for them will be valuable to a school. In certain circumstances, that is true but usually the computers are more trouble than they are worth. The computers address the businesses' desire for to help (or more cynically, get a tax write off and get rid of old equipment without the expense of paying someone to pick it up and dispose of it.) We need to be able to chose equipment and software that meets our needs and situations.

I think any settlement should take into account the following points:

Any settlement should encourage competition, not help Microsoft dominant yet another market.

If schools are to be the beneficiary of the settlement, make the settlement a cash settlement. Remove hardware and MS software from the settlement and allow schools to freely chose between Windows, Macintosh, and Linux solutions.

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Nick Belli
Information Services Coordinator
Salinas City Elementary School District
840 South Main Street
Salinas, CA 93901
831-784-2252 voice
831-784-6893 fax

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